

Literacy Links

Volume V, Issue 6

January 2005

Coming Events:

- New SAT Professional Development
January 24, 2005
- SCRI-HS Technical Assistance Meeting
January 25, 2005
- Cris Tovani
ELA Best Practice Seminar
January 26, 2005
- South Carolina Council of Teachers of English Conference
Embassy Suites, Columbia
January 28-29, 2005

For information about these programs, please refer to the articles in this issue of *Literacy Links*. This issue and past issues of *Literacy Links* can be found on the State Department's web page at www.myschools.com.

Inside this issue:

SCCTE Conference	2
SAT Workshops	3
SCRI-HS Grant Announcement	3
Workshops	4
Grants, Grants, Grants	5
Assessment News	6
Media Specialists and Literacy Coaches	7

Progress Continues on English 1 and English 2 Curriculum Resources

English 1 Curriculum Resource

Educators, who attended either of the initial sessions on the English 1 curriculum resource (June 7-8 or October 5-6), are invited back to Columbia for four additional days of professional development with Dr. Janet Allen. The remaining dates for these sessions are February 8, 2005; and April 5, 2005.

At the February session we will present a new module on journeys entitled *What a Trip! Making My Journey Matter*. The core text for this new module is *Huck Finn*, with *Finn: A Novel* as the contemporary young adult selection. The April session will also feature a new module to be included in the resource. At the end of this school year, the resource will have a total of eight modules that may be used in the English 1 curriculum.

These follow up days have a closed registration, open only to those who attended one of the two day sessions on the use of the English 1 curriculum resource.

Important Message About English 1 Curriculum Resource

It has come to the State Department of Education's attention that some of the districts/schools who are using the newly developed English 1 resource, *Framing Best Practice: English 1 Curriculum and Instruction*, would like to use it instead of the district-adopted literature book for English 1. As always, decisions about the content for all classes is a local decision. With that in mind, we created a resource that could be used to support and supplement cur-

rent instructional materials and methods. All of the instructional strategies highlighted in *Framing Best Practice* could be used with any materials, including adopted textbooks. In some cases, the resources used in *Framing Best Practice* may be more appropriate for some students. If that is the case, some or all of these resources could be added to the choices for teachers in any district.

Framing Best Practice is not mandatory. In fact, it was not intended to replace any district curriculum or district-adopted instructional materials, such as the literature textbook. The modules within the English 1 resource and the Young Adult texts that accompany them are intended for use by teachers who elect to use them in the manner that best meets the needs of their students within the framework of our state standards.

Should you have questions about this information, please contact Allison Norwood at anorwood@sde.state.sc.us or 803-734-2469.

English 2 Curriculum Resource

Because the English 1 curriculum resource has been so well received, the ELA team and Dr. Allen have begun work on an English 2 curriculum resource.

Currently seven pilot districts are working with Dr. Allen to create four English 2 modules this year. Four more modules will be created the following year, for a total of eight English 2 curriculum resource modules.

The first four modules will be unveiled the week of June 13, 2005, in Columbia.

The presentation of these four modules will be somewhat different than the two-day sessions used for English 1. The English 2 modules will be presented as a strand of Dr. Allen's *It's Never Too Late Institute*. Participants will attend the morning and afternoon keynotes, one session of the institute, and then one session on the English 2 curriculum resource.

The *It's Never Too Late Institute* is a four-day institute that will provide the English 2 teachers with the background needed in the use of strategies presented in the resource.

As in previous years, the institute is open to all South Carolina teachers. The only change is that English 2 teachers will attend a separate strand of sessions specifically for English 2. Also, the institute will be offered to South Carolina English 2 teachers free of charge.

If you have any questions about the English 1 follow up dates or the English 2 curriculum resource, please contact Allison Norwood at 803-734-2469 or anorwood@sde.state.sc.us.

Registration information for the follow up sessions is at the end of this newsletter. If you have registration questions, please e-mail Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net.

SCCTE Annual Conference Moves to Columbia

The 2005 South Carolina Council of Teachers of English conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in Columbia on January 28-29, 2005. This year's theme is *Navigating Change in K-College Classrooms*.

Featured speakers are **Marilyn Bizar**, professor of Secondary Education at National-Louis University in Chicago; **Carol Jago**, English teacher in Santa Monica, California; **Michael Opitz**, professor of Elementary Education and Reading at the University of Northern Colorado; and **Ron Rash**, writer of poetry and fiction.

Along with these guest speakers, an array of presentations during the break-out sessions will target elementary, middle, and high school-related topics. Many education exhibitors will be on hand displaying a variety of books and educational support materials.

In addition to these sessions the day of the conference, the State Department of Education will host a pre-conference session with

Young Adult author **Chris Crutcher** on Friday, January 28. Marilyn Bizar and Michael Opitz will also present pre-conference sessions. These preconference sessions are offered at an additional fee.

Make sure you register now for this conference because the rate is higher if you register on-site. There are also special rates for students and retired teachers.

The conference rate for the hotel rooms is \$102 per night, which includes a complimentary breakfast buffet and manager's evening reception. Call 1-800-362-2779 for reservations. Be sure to inform the hotel that you are attending the SCCTE conference.

Contact Bob Hanley, conference program chair, directly at bhanley@ac.edu for information about the conference. Or you can visit the SCCTE webpage for complete conference and registration information at www.sccte.org.

ELA Best Practice Seminars Continue

Last year's work flows into 2005 by continuing the series of seminars highlighting best practices in the area of English language arts. These seminars are presented to South Carolina K-12 educators by the English Language Arts Team in the Office of Curriculum and Standards and the South Carolina Council of the International Reading Association (SCIRA).

This month, Cris Tovani will present a session for middle and high school teachers on noticing thinking to inform instruction. This session will be held at Columbia Conference Center in Columbia.

Each session will begin at 9:30 A.M. and

conclude at 3:30 P.M. Lunch will be provided.

Please note the seminar change for Ellin Keene's presentation; that date has been changed to March 1, 2005. This session will be at the Columbiana Conference Center, formerly the Sheraton Hotel on Bush River Road.

A registration form for all of the sessions is attached to this newsletter. Please note that you may now register for multiple sessions at one time rather than registering prior to each session. Also, if you register for more than one session, you may also send one check to cover the registrations.

The registration fee for each session is \$50. Make checks payable to SCIRA.

Please check your calendars to make sure you will be able to attend before you register. Jim Burke's session for middle and high school teachers is on a Saturday.

If you have questions about the presenter or the topic, contact Cathy Jones at cjones@sde.state.sc.us or 803-734-0790.

If you have any questions about your registration, contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net.

Date	Presenter	Audience	Topic
January 26, 2005	Cris Tovani	Middle/High	Parallel Experiences: Noticing Thinking To Inform Instruction
March 1, 2005	Ellin Keene	All	The Intricacies of the Mind: Teaching Reading Comprehension
April 7, 2005	Janet Allen	Middle/High	Testing Best Practice: Planning for Results!
April 25, 2005	Harvey Daniels	Elementary	Literature Circles—Beyond the Basics
April 26, 2005	Harvey Daniels	Middle/High	Content Area Reading—Strategies, Interaction, and Skills
May 14, 2005	Jim Burke	Middle/High	Reading Reminders—Tools, Tips, and Techniques

SDE Offers Workshop on New SAT

In anticipation of the new SAT, to be given for the first time in March 2005, the Office of Curriculum and Standards at the State Department of Education, in conjunction with College Board, is offering a workshop on the new SAT preparation topics. These workshops will help teachers understand the new SAT and prepare the students for the test and college success.

This workshop will be offered on two separate dates to accommodate the large number of educators that responded to the inquiry e-mail. The dates for this workshop are January 24, 2005, and February 15, 2005. There is no registration fee, but registration is limited to 200 participants at each session. Both sessions will be held at the Columbia Conference Center off Fernandina Road in the Irmo area.

Each of these workshops will begin promptly at 9:00 A.M. Registration will open at 8:15 A.M. Coffee will be provided, as well as lunch. The session will end at 4:00 P.M.

Representatives from the College Board in Atlanta will conduct both sessions. The same information will be presented on both dates.

New SAT Overview

This workshop on the new SAT is specifically designed for secondary English/language arts teachers and ELA curriculum leaders. The one day workshop will include a brief overview of the entire test and an in depth look at the new Critical Writing component including essay scoring and preparation.

The morning will provide teachers with models and lesson plans focused on strengthening students' argumentative writing skills. The ability to write an effective argument is an essential skill for college success. This workshop helps teachers to impart to students the tools necessary to compose argumentative prose.

In this workshop, educators will learn

- Strategies for developing argumentative writing skills
- How to assess argumentative writing using the new SAT

scoring guide

- How to provide instructional activities that teach students to recognize the components of argumentative writing and to reproduce those components in their writing

The afternoon session will allow the teachers to practice with the holistic scoring rubric. Teachers will learn

- How to use the holistic scoring to assess writing
- Sound strategies to assist student writers, including insights into national writing tests
- To design authentic assessment tools for their individual classrooms, schools, and districts
- About the roles of effective writing prompts in student success and in valid assessment

Teachers will receive a guide to the new SAT, activities that can be used immediately in the classroom, and the new SAT scoring guide.

For information about this offering, please contact LaVerne Rodgers at 803-734-3131 or lroddgers@sde.state.sc.us. A registration form is attached to this newsletter. Please refer all registration questions to Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net.

School-Based SAT Preparation Workshop

This workshop is offered directly through the College Board. This workshop provides the tools and materials teachers need to design school-based SAT sessions that reinforce academic skills while preparing students for the SAT and the demands of college-level work

This workshop is February 21, 2005, at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Columbia. This session is \$135 for College Board members and \$160 for non-members.

To register, go to <http://www.collegeboard.com/newsat/hs/rediness/prof.html>.

SCRI-HS Grant Applications Have Been Mailed to Districts

The English Language Arts Team in the Office of Curriculum and Standards is pleased to announce that applications have been mailed to superintendents inviting districts to participate in the South Carolina Reading Initiative—High School (SCRI-HS) beginning in the 2005-2006 school year.

This initiative will provide intensive professional development for teachers and administrators to enhance their knowledge of reading and writing processes. As with the other SCRI initiatives, literacy coaches will serve no more than two school sites and will be involved in at least two days of study every month.

No more than two representatives from each district interested in applying for the grant should attend the mandatory technical assistance session scheduled for January 25, 2005, at the South Carolina History and Archives Building on Parklane Road. The session will begin at 10:00 A.M. and conclude at 3:00 P.M. Lunch will be provided. A registration form for this session is included in the grant application packet.

Although the funding for SCRI-HS is pending, districts are still encouraged to apply for the grant. If the funding is made available for SCRI-HS, 25 grants of \$50,000 each will be awarded. The grant will also pay any indirect costs incurred by the dis-

trict.

The deadline for grant applications is March 14, 2005. Grant announcements will be made the first week in April 2005.

If you have any questions about SCRI-HS, please contact Allison Norwood at anorwood@sde.state.sc.us or 803-734-2469.

Student Writing Opportunities Foster Young Writers

South Carolina Writers Workshop

Once again SCWW is sponsoring fiction and poetry contests for high school juniors and seniors. The submission deadline is March 31, 2005.

The first place winner in each category will receive \$100. Second place winners will receive \$25.

Only students currently in grades 11 and 12 enrolled in public and private schools in South Carolina are eligible.

Each student may enter only one manuscript in each category: fiction and poetry. All entries submitted must be original works of fiction or poetry and must be postmarked by March 31, 2005. Each work must be typed and double spaced on 8 1/2" X 11" white paper with an entry form as a cover sheet. The student's name

cannot appear on the entry itself.

Mail entries in a 9" X 12" envelope to SCWW, P.O. Box 7104, Columbia, SC 29202. Winners' names will appear on the web at www.scwriters.com. In addition, winners will be notified by mail.

Young Writers Conference

The Young Writers Conference will be held on March 5, 2005, at Ballentine Elementary in Lexington/Richland School District Five.

This is a unique opportunity for elementary, middle, and high school students to work with published authors on the craft of writing.

Quite a few authors are confirmed for all grade levels for this conference.

Anthony Fredericks—elementary and middle school

Susan Campbell Bartoletti—

elementary, middle, and high school

Kathi Appelt—elementary, middle, and high school

Larry Dane Brimmer—elementary, middle, and high school

Ruth Chappell—elementary and middle school

Charles R. Smith—elementary, middle, and high school

Each district is allowed to send students based on district enrollment.

If you have any questions regarding the Young Writers Conference, contact Caroline Savage at csavage@sde.state.sc.us or 803-734-4770.

Literacy Empowerment Foundation Provides Free Books for Teachers

Books From Bruce

Bruce Larkin, the author of over three hundred children's books, has generously offered to donate to every kindergarten, first grade, and second grade child in the United States, a book to call his or her own.

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation, a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, will distribute books through the "Books from Bruce" program. Free books are available to educators to give to their students at <http://www.lefbooks.org>. Books are free. Educators only pay shipping and handling.

rorendi@literacyempowerment.org.

Read Across America Day

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation (LEF) invites your school or other literacy project to apply for FREE books for Read Across America Day. During the past year, LEF has distributed of 3,000,000 books to schools all across the country for Read Across America Day and other literacy projects.

Resources are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Orders must be received by February 8, 2005.

An order form for "Books from Bruce" can be found at <http://www.lefbooks.org>. If you have questions about this offer, e-mail the Literacy Empowerment Foundation at rorendi@literacyempowerment.org. For more information and an order form, visit <http://LEFbooks.org> or call at 717-791-6210 or 610-719-6448.

Workshop Opportunities for Educators

Upstate Writing Project

Internationally known author, poet, and educational consultant, Georgia Heard, will be the featured speaker at the Upstate Writing Project Spring Conference, Saturday, March 19, 2005, at the University Center in Greenville.

Ms. Heard will discuss practical writing problems like writer's block and how to quiet the critics in every writer's head. She will also help writers and teachers of writing learn how to more skillfully use observation and past experiences as writing source material.

Registration is \$50 and includes a box lunch. Participants will earn Professional

Development certificates. **For more information or to register on-line, go to www.clemson.edu/uwp.**

Kathi Appelt at SCMSA

The State Department of Education will sponsor a preconference session on March 4 at the South Carolina Middle School Association Conference at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Kathi Appelt will conduct a writer's workshop based around her book, *Poems from Homeroom: A Writer's Place to Start*. She is the author of over 30 books for children and young adults.

The session is from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. and costs \$50. Lunch and a copy of *Poems from Homeroom* will be provided. **You can**

register for the session at www.scmssa.org.

SCRI Literacy Workshop #1

SCRIA is conducting a series of literacy workshops for teachers. The first is *A Day of Literature with Lester*, Saturday, January 22, 2005, at R.L. Bryan on Greystone Boulevard in Columbia. Lester Laminack is an author and educator.

Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. and the session will start at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at 2:00 P.M. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, contact Jackie Chumley at jchumley@rock-hill.k12.sc.us

Grants Writing Training Sessions and Available Grants

SC Teaching Scholarship Grants

The SC Teaching Scholarship Grants program is ready to accept applications.

This program is coordinated by the Commission on Higher Education and is supported from the proceeds of the SC Education Lottery. Included in the distribution of Lottery funding, the SC General Assembly allocated \$2 million to be awarded in annual grants of \$1000 for South Carolina teachers who are continuing their education to enhance teaching skills in core discipline areas. The website is <http://www.che400.states.sc.us/AcademicAffairs/SCTSPProgram.htm>.

For a copy of the press release, go to <http://www.che400.state.sc.us/AcademicAffairs/SCTS/PressRelease.pdf>.

For more information, please contact the Commission on Higher Education's Division of Academic Affairs and Licensing at 803-737-2260.

Early Reading First

The U.S. Department of Education released the fiscal year 2005 Early Reading First application December 8, 2004.

Early Reading First, part of the President's

"Good Start, Grow Smart" initiative, is designed to transform existing early education programs into centers of excellence that provide high-quality, early education to young children, especially those from low-income families. The overall purpose of the Early Reading First Program is to prepare young children to enter kindergarten with the necessary language, cognitive, and early reading skills to prevent reading difficulties and ensure school success.

The electronic pre-application deadline is February 7, 2005, and those invited to submit full applications must submit an electronic application by May 2, 2005. Both deadlines are 4:30 P.M.

The Early Reading First application package is available electronically at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/earlyreading/applicant.html>. The grant announcement is also posted to the Grants Office page at www.myschools.com.

For more information regarding Early Reading First, contact Becky Haynes at Rbecca.Haynes@ed.gov or 202-260-0968 or Eric McGhee at Eric.McGhee@ed.gov or 202-205-8736.

Grant Writing Workshop Series

This 15-hour series, open only to public K-12 school and district personnel and SDE staff, covers a range of grant-related topics, from seeking grant announcements to identifying potential funders and preparing a complete, effective grant proposal.

Dr. Gail Widner, director of the Grants Office at SDE, will conduct the series. The cost is \$75 per participant. Registration and payment must be received in the Grants Office by 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 9, 2005. Late registration is available for \$85 if seats are available.

The series will be February 23-25, 2005, at the SCETV Telecommunications Center Conference Room on George Rogers Boulevard in Columbia. Each day will begin at 9:00 A.M. and end at 4:00 P.M. Participants will have 90 minutes for lunch on their own.

Participants will earn one recertification/renewal credit hour by attending all parts of each session and taking both the pre-test and the post-test.

For more information, call 803-734-5810 or e-mail grants@sde.state.sc.us

Media Literacy News

Writing From Experience

As part of its 100th anniversary celebration, Loews Cineplex Entertainment Corporation has joined with Scholastic to launch "Writing From Experience: Movies and Memories." This national, in-school educational program invites students in grades 5-6 to explore the role of filmed entertainment. The curriculum is being distributed free to more than 10,000 teachers.

For more information, visit <http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/moviesandmemories/>.

Teens Aren't Reading

One of the reasons we recommend a balanced media diet is to make sure kids get into good habits early. Even with parents urging their kids to read, a new Gallup poll published this week shows that teenagers prefer a good (or even bad) television show to a good book.

The poll revealed teens' habits by asking kids 13-17 what they did "yesterday." About 90 percent said they watched TV, by far the most popular activity. Other responses included listened to music on the radio (77 percent), listened to CDs/MP3s (76 percent), used the Internet (60 percent), and played computer games (37 percent).

Reading came toward the bottom of the list, with 33 percent saying they read a book for pleasure the previous day. About 29 percent said they read a magazine, 28 percent read a newspaper, and 7 percent read a comic book.

Annenburg Channel Programs

Conversations in Literature (teachers grades 6-12)
<http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/convers6.html>

Engaging with Literature: A Video Library,

Grades 3-5

<http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/engagingwk8.html>

The Expanding Canon: Teaching Multicultural Literature in High School

<http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/expandcanon9.html>

In Search of the Novel (middle and high school teachers)

<http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/insearch10.html>

Making Meaning in Literature: A Video Library, Grades 6-8

<http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/meaninglib11.html>

News Writing (college/high school level)

<http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/newswrit12.html>

Office of Assessment Blitzes State with HSAP Information and Other Assessment News

The Office of Assessment is conducting informational sessions on the new High School Assessment Program (HSAP). During these one-day sessions, attendees will receive general information about the HSAP testing program and test format, as well as content-specific information for the two components of the test: English language arts and mathematics.

General testing information

10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Lunch (on your own)

12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Concurrent sessions

English language arts

Mathematics

1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Registration is based on a first-come, first-registered basis. The same information will be presented at each session. Schools may send two representatives: one English and one math. One representative at the district level may also register. Registrations will be confirmed via e-mail.

The next session is February 21, 2005, at Gilbert High School, and the last session is March 18, 2005 at Dorman High School.

To register for a session, complete the attached registration form and fax it to Tammy Randolph in the Office of Assessment at 803-734-8019.

Committee Applications

The Office of Assessment is seeking applicants for content review and rangefinding committees. Submitted applications will be placed on file, and prior to each committee meeting, an invitation list will be generated from the applicants.

Interested educators, active or retired, must complete and submit an application packet. Contact Tammy Randolph at trandop@sde.state.sc.us or 803-734-8019 for a packet. More information about the process can also be found by visiting Committee Applications at <http://www.myschools.com/offices/assessment/News/Committees.pdf>.

Rangefinding committees select student responses that are used to train the profes-

sional readers who score the extended writing items for PACT ELA grades 3-8, as well as the constructed-response items on the ELA and mathematics components of HSAP. PACT rangefinding committees meet twice each academic year, once before the fall administration and again before the spring administration.

Content Review committees review test items developed for potential use on PACT ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies tests. Additional content review committees will be formed for the new end-of-course text, U.S. History and Constitution. Content review committees that work on established test once a year, usually during June. Committees working on the implementation of new test will initially meet more frequently.

NCS Mentor for South Carolina

The new NCS Mentor software program is released and districts should receive their shipments Monday, January 10, 2005.

The new software program features sample mathematics and ELA constructed response and extended response items and student responses for the HSAP. In addition to the samples for HSAP, the PACT sample mathematics and ELA items and responses from the original software CD will be included in this new program. With the inclusion of sample responses for grades 3, 6, 8, and high school, users will be able to study the progression of expectations from PACT through HSAP. Analyzing student responses for grade 8 and for high school should prove especially valuable for middle and high school teachers as they plan their instruction and classroom assessments to meet the rigor of South Carolina's testing programs.

What is especially exciting about the new program is that districts will be able to download the software program from a secure website. The web-deliverable program will be a quick and efficient means for schools to provide immediate access to the program for their teachers. Each District Test Coordinator (DTC) will receive a shipment of CDs, one for each elementary, middle, and high school in the district, as well as extra copies for district-level personnel permitting users to load the soft-

ware program on individual computers without accessing the Internet.

Assessment Literacy

The Office of Assessment is producing two television series designed for teachers and administrators: the first series will overview the statewide assessments, and the second is a professional development series that addresses classroom assessment practices that are aligned with state standards and supports standards-based instruction for teachers at all levels. A companion document will accompany the professional development series.

The first series, *Assessment Informational Overview*, will be televised on Channel 304. Each program will air at 9:30 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.

- **HSAP Reporting:** January 5, 10, and 15
- **Accommodations and Modifications on the Statewide Assessments:** February 7 and 14
- **Administering and Maintaining Security of Statewide Tests:** March 7 and 14

The professional development series, *Assessing Standards in the Classroom*, is an 11-part series, hosted by Teri Siskund and Christina Schneider in the Office of Assessment and Robert Johnson from the University of South Carolina. This series will also be televised on Channel 304. Lessons 1-5 will be block-fed January 12 from 8:30 A.M. to 11:24 A.M. Lessons 6-11 will be block-fed January 13, 2005, from 8:30 A.M. to 12:57 P.M.

As additional support for *Assessing Standards in the Classroom*, we will also air *Assessment Connections: Making the Connection Between the Standards and Instruction*. Ellen James, an ELA specialist in the Office of Assessment, will discuss how to group complementary standards for more efficient instruction and how to interpret the standards to ensure that instructional plans meet the rigor of PACT in the two-part program. This program will also air on Channel 304 on January 20, 2005, from 9:00 A.M. to 11:09 A.M.

Media Specialists Provide Support for Literacy Coaches

Dutch Fork Library Media Specialist Valerie Byrd has grown to love the relationship she has with her literacy coach, but it wasn't the smoothest of transitions. Valerie's first response of excitement at the thought of working with a literacy coach soon changed to frustration after a trying year. Now that Dutch Fork Elementary school has its own school literacy coach, Valerie is thrilled and has provided these suggestions for other media specialists.

From a list of literacy coach duties provided at an SCRI School Leadership Team meeting, I learned that a literacy coach is a life-long learner, a literacy leader in the school community and beyond, a collaborative problem-solver, an organizer of literacy materials and resources, and a leader of professional study.

I thought, "Wait! Those are some of my job duties as a library media specialist!" In addition, I was hearing about literacy coaches hosting author visits and having other reading celebrations. In general, doing a lot of the same things we do, but not in collaboration with the library media specialist. I knew that with all of these common activities, duties, and goals, I needed to be more proactive to avoid feeling frustrated or left out.

We now have a full time literacy coach, and I am very lucky in my situation. Our literacy coach is our school's Teacher of the Year. She has always been open-minded and understanding of how impor-

tant the school library media program is to student achievement. I also have a supportive administration at the school level. Even though I have a great coach and all of this support behind me, I still feel the need to make sure they keep supporting my program.

I think it is important to first understand what the literacy coach is there for. I have learned that she is someone who can model best practice literacy lessons for teachers and help them with guided and shared reading and writing. She also hosts professional study sessions and book clubs (for teachers). Basically, the literacy coach is there for the teachers. Their bottom line is teacher achievement. Library media specialists work directly with students to achieve their bottom line: student achievement. Since the literacy coach works directly with the teachers, she can be your best advocate for the library program, especially if your administration is not as supportive as you would like. Your literacy coach can help you reach the school's administration.

Here's how a literacy coach and a library media specialist can work together for the school's best interest.

1. Talk to your literacy coach. Don't wait for your literacy coach to talk to you. If you feel that a literacy coach is doing something you should be doing, tell her. Our literacy coach always says, "You don't know what you don't

know," so communicate.

2. Do not make yourself feel like you aren't one of them. Read their literature and apply it for use in the library media center. Flip through one of these books and the some of the chapter titles will scream "media center" to you.
3. Get involved in the study group. If you aren't involved, get involved.
4. Collaborate. My literacy coach and I meet every other week for an hour to talk about what's going on in the classrooms. This is also a time we can talk about issues that are important to us. Very often we can help each other with these issues.
5. Help compile booklists.
6. Space. Offer your media center for professional study groups and workshops that the literacy coach hosts. Make the library visible and stick around. Your faculty, staff, and literacy coach will see you as a supportive member of the literacy community.
7. Help with the book room. That book room is being built to stay. When the literacy coach is not there anymore, the book room should be.

Finally, look at your literacy coach as a fellow advocate. Literacy and libraries go hand in hand. This is someone who can help you get a flexible schedule, build library resources, and support the library media program. You have a friend in your literacy coach; all you have to do is ask.

In the MIDDLE of a Good Book

Are you looking for good young adolescent literature to use with your middle school students? For the next few months, *Literacy Links* will spotlight adolescent literature that you may want to use in your classroom. If this month's selection isn't right for your students right now, keep reading future issues of *Literacy Links* so that you can match the right book with the right student at the right time.

Poems from Homeroom: A Writer's Place to Start
By Kathi Appelt

Poems from Homeroom is wonderful book of poetry that will hit home with most adolescents. This two-part book is filled with poems of unforgettable characters: the flirtatious couple passing notes in class, the invisible overweight girl whose name nobody remembers, the abused girl, and the boy erasing bathroom graffiti about someone he secretly loves.

The second part of the book explores how these poems were written and how readers can begin crafting poems of their own. This unique text gives young writers what they need, a place to start.

Kathi Appelt is the author of many picture books as well as several books for older readers. She will present a preconference session for middle school teachers at the South Carolina Middle School Association conference in Myrtle Beach on March 5, 2005. Registration information is located at www.scma.org.

If you have any questions about the middle school conference or if you would like to suggest a title for review, please contact Caroline Savage at csavage@sde.state.sc.us or 803-734-4770.

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www.myschools.com

Literacy Links is a publication of the English Language Arts Team of the South Carolina State Department of Education. It is published once a month on the State Department web page at http://www.myschools.com/offices/cso/english_la/litlinks.htm.

Literacy Links volume IV

The Office of Curriculum and Standards provides statewide leadership and services to schools and districts to ensure the implementation of grade-level standards-based instruction for all students.

We accomplish this by:

- developing and revising academic standards and expanding support materials;
- promoting the use of effective evidence-based instructional practices by schools and districts; and
- facilitating the implementation of programs, projects, grants, and activities that support standards-based instruction

State Department of Education Events

JANUARY 2005

20-21 Revised Bloom's Academy,
TBA, Columbia

24 New SAT Professional Development, Columbia

25 Technical Assistance Meeting for SCRI-HS

26 ELA Best Practice, Cris
Tovani, Columbia

28 SC ASCD Winter Conference, Watkins Student Center, Furman, Greenville

28-29 SC Council for the Teachers of English Conference, Embassy Suites, Columbia

FEBRUARY

10-11 Revised Bloom's Academy, TBA, Columbia

10-12 SC Music Educators' Association Staff Development Conference, Civic Center, Charleston

15 New SAT Professional Development, Columbia

17-19 SC International Reading Association Conference, Convention Center, Myrtle Beach

18-19 SC Teachers of Foreign Language Conference, Sheraton, Columbia

MARCH

2-4 SC Association of School Librarians, Annual Conference, Florence

4 SCASA Middle School Principals Annual Conference, Convention Center, Myrtle Beach

4-6 SC Middle School Association Annual Conference, Convention Center, Myrtle Beach

10-11 Revised Bloom's Academy, TBA, Columbia

18 Social Studies Coordinator's Meeting, TBA, Columbia

18 South Carolina Day

APRIL

1 SC Geographic Bee, State Museum, Columbia

15-17 SC ASCD Spring Conference, Convention Center, North Charleston

Registration Form

2004-05 English Language Arts Best Practice Seminars

Instructions: To register for any of these seminars, please complete the form on the next page and mail it and a **check made payable to SCIRA for \$50.00 for each session for which you are registering** to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. Payment is due with registration. No purchase orders will be accepted. Participation will be on a first-come with check, first-served basis. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered.

If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net or fax at 803-329-1952. If you have any questions concerning the seminar, contact Cathy Jones at 803-734-0790 or cjones@sde.state.sc.us.

Please indicate with an "X", beside the REGISTRATION column, the session(s) you wish to attend.

Regis- ter	Session	Date/Presenter	Registration Deadline	Topic
	Session 7	March 1, 2005 Ellin Kene	February 14, 2005	The Intricacies of the Mind: Teaching Reading Comprehension
	Session 8	April 7, 2005 Janet Allen	March 21, 2005	Testing Best Practice: Planning for Results!
	Session 9	April 25, 2005 Harvey Daniels	April 8, 2005	Literature Circles—Beyond the Basics
	Session 10	April 26, 2005 Harvey Daniels	April 8, 2005	Content Area Reading—Strategies, Interaction, and Skills
	Session 11	May 14, 2005 Jim Burke	April 25, 2005	Reading Reminders—Tools, Tips, and Techniques

Name _____

Position _____ Grade _____

District _____ School _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

School E-mail _____

Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Home E-mail _____

Registration Form

Literacy Leadership Institute with Dr. Janet Allen

Two Literacy Leadership Follow Up Days

This professional development is for literacy leaders only who attended the Literacy Leadership Institute July 29-30, 2004.

Instructions: To register for these follow up days, please complete this form and mail it to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. *Please indicate the session(s) you will attend by placing an X in the box beside the session(s) date(s) you wish to attend.* A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants with directions and details for the institute. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have any questions concerning the these follow up days, contact Allison Norwood at 803-734-2469 or anorwood@sde.state.sc.us.**

Registration	Session	Registration Deadline	Location
	January 7, 2004	December 17, 2004	Columbia Conference Center
	February 10, 2005	January 21, 2005	Columbia Conference Center

Name _____

Position _____

District _____ School _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

School E-mail _____

Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Home E-mail _____

Registration Form
Framing Best Practice:
English 1 Curriculum and Instruction

Two English I Curriculum Resource Follow Up Days

This professional development is for English 1 teachers and school and district curriculum leaders who attended the initial English 1 two-day session in either June or October.

Instructions: To register for these follow up days, please complete this form and mail it to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731, or fax the form to 803-329-1952. *Please indicate the session(s) you will attend by placing an X in the column beside the date(s) of the session(s) you wish to attend.* A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants with directions and details for the institute. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have any questions concerning the these follow up days, contact Allison Norwood at 803-734-2469 or anorwood@sde.state.sc.us.**

Registration	Session	Registration Deadline	Location
	February 8, 2005	January 21, 2005	Columbia Conference Center
	April 5, 2005	March 18, 2005	Columbia Conference Center

Name _____

Position _____

District _____ School _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

School E-mail _____

Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Home E-mail _____

Registration Form

HSAP Informational Session
February 21, 2005
South Carolina Department of History and Archives

Presented by
Office of Assessment
South Carolina State Department of Education

Instructions: To register, please complete this form and fax it to the attention of Tammy Randolph in the Office of Assessment by Friday, February 11, 2005. The fax number is 803-734-8527. If you have any questions, call Tammy at 803-734-8019 or e-mail her at trandolp@sde.state.sc.us. Remember, you are not registered for this session unless you receive a confirmation e-mail. You will be asked to present your confirmation e-mail the day of the session as your admission ticket.

Name_____

Position_____

District _____ School_____

Street Address_____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

School E-mail _____

Registration Form

New SAT Workshop

January 24, 2005 or February 15, 2005

This professional development is for high school English teachers who work with SAT preparation. Registration is limited to a maximum of two teachers per high school and one district administrator per district.

Instructions: To register for one of these sessions, please complete this form and mail it to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731, or fax the form to 803-329-1952. *Please indicate the session you will attend by placing an X in the column beside the date of the session you wish to attend.* A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants with directions and details for the day. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have any questions concerning the session, contact LaVerne Rodgers at 803-734-3131 or lrodgers@sde.state.sc.us.**

Registration	Session	Registration Deadline	Location
	January 24, 2005	January 14, 2005	Columbia Conference Center
	February 15, 2005	February 4, 2005	Columbia Conference

Name_____

Position_____

District _____ School_____

Street Address_____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

School E-mail_____

Home Street Address_____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Home E-mail_____